DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 442 897 UD 033 638

TITLE	America's Homeless Children: New Outcasts. A Public Policy Report from the Better Homes Fund.
INSTITUTION	Better Homes Fund, Newton, MA.
SPONS AGENCY	Harman Cain Foundation, Needham, MA.; Annie E. Casey Foundation, Baltimore, MD.; Kellogg Foundation, Battle Creek, MI.
ISBN	ISBN-0-9672165-0-8
PUB DATE	1999-12-00
NOTE	54p.
AVAILABLE FROM	Better Homes Fund, 181 Wells Avenue, Third Floor, Newton, MA 02459 ($14.95). Tel: 617-964-3834; Fax: 617-244-1758; E-mail: info@tbhf.org; Web site: http://thebetterhomesfund.org/.
PUB TYPE	Reports - Descriptive (141)
EDRS PRICE	Document Not Available from EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS	*Adolescents; *Child Health; *Children; Elementary Secondary Education; Equal Education; *Family Problems; Family (Sociological Unit); High Risk Students; *Homeless People; Housing Needs; Mental Health; Public Policy; Violence

ABSTRACT

This report presents information on homeless children in the United States to gain the attention of policymakers and the media. Information comes from years of rigorous scientific research. The report presents both findings and solutions, including concrete steps to secure food, shelter, health care, and schooling to help homeless children and families survive from day to day. It also offers longer-term steps that address the underlying causes of homelessness (lack of affordable housing, limited economic opportunity, and the malignant cycle of poverty and violence). After an introduction, Part 1 discusses "Homelessness Makes Children Sick"; "Homelessness Wounds Young Children"; "Homelessness Devastates Families"; and "Homeless Children Struggle in School." Part 2 looks at "Family Homelessness: A New Social Problem"; "More Than One Million Homeless Children"; and "Family Homelessness Will Increase." Part 3 discusses "Recommendations" (both immediate and long-term). Endnotes and further readings are included. Two appendixes describe research methodology and the Better Homes Fund. (SM)

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